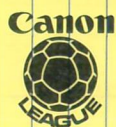




OXFORD

United



OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE
Canon League Division III
BOLTON WANDERERS

April 20th 1984
Kick-off 3.00 pm

50p



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OFFICIAL MATCHDAY MAGAZINE

Printed by Parchment (Oxford) Limited
60 Hurst Street, Oxford
Published by Oxford United F.C.

Editor: Mick Brown

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Individual contributions made to the Official Matchday Magazine do not necessarily reflect the views of the club.

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JIM SMITH'S TEAM TALK

Today we welcome a young Bolton Wanderers side, who have done extremely well this season and will be coming to the Manor this afternoon determined to beat us, as most teams of late have tried to do. Because it is Oxford United and because of our success this season, our opponents have that extra edge to try and defeat us.

Our home form in the last two games has to me been disappointing, particularly in the second half against Southend. At half-time we had a two goal lead, having played some good football and with some fine finishing from Steve Biggins. But then we stopped playing because we thought we had done enough and consequently we could have paid dearly for being unprofessional. Nevertheless, we won 2-1 and scored another 3 points in our quest for the championship. It is now between 4 clubs as to who goes up — Wimbledon, Hull City, Sheffield United and ourselves.

At the beginning of the season, I said as has been the case for the last five seasons, that 82 points would be enough to gain promotion.

Yet here we are sitting on 82 points and still not guaranteed promotion. Because of the success of the three clubs below us, we will be kept in suspense for a little longer yet.

This could work in our favour, because it will keep us on our toes, for it would be a natural reaction to relax once promotion was achieved, due to all the games we have played and the pressure we have been under in this magnificent season.

I felt that on Saturday even the crowd were getting a little blasé and taking things for granted. As fantastic as you have been away from home vocally, it has been exactly the opposite at the Manor.

Whilst you have been turning up in good numbers recently, the real vocal support has been missing, so I would ask all of you, for the remaining three home games after today, to once again turn up in large numbers and just as importantly give the vocal support that I know you are capable of, and help us clinch the championship.

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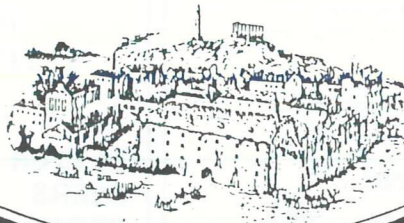
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OUR VISITORS



by Tony Pullein

Bolton's chances of making a swift return to the Second Division effectively ended at Griffin Park last Saturday when they lost 0-3 to Brentford. Though they beat Plymouth Argyle 2-1 at Burnden Park on Monday and still have a mathematical chance of breaking into the top three places, their fate is now no longer in their own hands.

Even if they win at The Manor today and take maximum points from their remaining five matches, promotion could only be theirs if two of the leading three contenders — Wimbledon, Hull of Sheffield United — suffered a dramatic collapse.

Nevertheless, manager John McGovern can look back on the season with a tremendous amount of satisfaction. For he has continued his impressive rebuilding programme and the emerging Bolton team now shows enormous potential. Only three of the players who were in the first-team when he arrived almost two years ago are still in the side today — defender Gerry McElhinney, winger Jeff Chandler and forward Wayne Foster.

In view of all the changes taking place it's really quite surprising that Bolton were even in contention for promotion.

Bolton returned to the Third Division this season after a dramatic finale last term. They needed to win their final game at Charlton to have any hope of staying in the Second Division. When they took the lead on the hour mark, it looked as if they might do it. But Charlton, who would have been doomed by

defeat, staged a grandstand finish to win 4-1.

The Wanderers were one of the original 12 members of the Football League in 1888 and spent many years as a power in the First Division, though they never managed to win the Championship. Their best achievement was in finishing third on three occasions.

They won the Second Division championship in 1909 and 1978 and have on four other occasions won promotion as runners-up in that section.

It was in 1971 that the club hit its lowest ebb, suffering relegation to the Third Division for the first time. But they bounced back two years later after winning the Third Division championship.

Then, after twice narrowly missing further promotion back to the First Division, they topped Division Two in 1978. Sadly, they remained in the First Division for only two seasons. And in 1983 they found themselves back in Division Three again.

It is in Cup football that Bolton have achieved their greatest successes. They have appeared in seven F.A. Cup finals, winning the trophy in 1923, 1926, 1929 and 1958.

Ironically, they are probably best remembered for one of the Wembley finals they lost. They led Blackpool 3-1 until the late stages of the 1953 final and then suffered as Stanley Matthews turned on his magic to turn the game dramatically in the closing stages into a 4-3 Blackpool victory.



BACK ROW: Brian Borrows, Neil Berry, John Platt, Simon Farnworth, Gerry McElhinney, Peter Valentine.

MIDDLE ROW: Warren Joyce, Neil Redfearn (*on loan to Lincoln City*), Steve Thompson, Tony Caldwell, Eric Snookes, Wayne Foster.

FRONT ROW: Charlie Wright (*Chief Coach*), Jeff Chandler, Steve Saunders, John McGovern (*Player/Manager*), Ray Deakin, Simon Rudge, Peter Nightingale (*Physio*).

THE MEN FROM BURNDEN PARK

Simon FARNWORTH (Goalkeeper)

After a successful apprenticeship at Burnden Park Simon has been waiting patiently in the wings for his first team break for a couple of seasons. Made his debut for the Trotters on the opening day of the season and has only missed a handful of matches due to injury since.

Brian BORROWS (Defender)

Signed from Everton just prior to last season's transfer deadline for £6,000 after making 27 First Division appearances for the Toffees. Brian can also play in midfield if required.

Ray DEAKIN (Defender)

Another former Everton player. Ray joined the Wanderers on a free transfer from Port Vale in the summer of 1982.

Warren JOYCE (Midfield)

All round sportsman having played County Cricket at Colts level and Rugby Union at Schoolboy level. Warren got his chance in midfield last season against Carlisle United and has been ever-present in the side since.

Gerry McELHINNEY (Defender)

Signed for £25,000 from Distillery at the beginning of the 1980/81 season, a former Gaelic footballer and amateur boxer. An enthusiastic defender who has been rewarded this season with a call-up to the Northern Ireland side.

Peter VALENTINE (Defender)

Peter crossed the Pennines from Huddersfield Town in the summer in a deal that took former Bolton skipper Paul Jones in the opposite direction. Has missed only one match this season, the fixture with Oxford at Christmas.

Steve THOMPSON (Midfield)

Former apprentice who broke into the team at the tail end of last season and has been a regular member in midfield this term.

Jeff CHANDLER (Forward)

A livewire forward with an abundance of skill and control. Jeff cost Wanderers £40,000 when he signed from Leeds United in October 1981. Scored from the penalty spot against Plymouth on Monday, his 14th goal of the season.

Wayne FOSTER (Forward)

A former local schoolboy, Wayne came onto the Bolton scene during the 1981/82 season and commanded a regular place in the attack. Has represented England at Youth level.

Tony CALDWELL (Forward)

Signed from non-League Horwich last summer and now is the club's leading goalscorer with 21 goals, five of which came against Walsall in the 8-1 drubbing in September.

PAST RESULTS

Season	Comp	Home	Away
1953-54	F.A. 4	2-4	
1968-69	Div. 2	1-1	1-1
1969-70	Div. 2	3-1	1-1
1970-71	Div. 2	1-1	2-0
1973-74	Div. 2	0-2	1-2
1974-75	Div. 2	2-1	1-3
1975-76	Div. 2	2-0	1-0
1983-84	Div. 3		0-1

Pat & Brian

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CURRENT FORM

NEWPORT COUNTY	Away	Won	3-2
BRADFORD CITY	Home	Lost	0-2
BURNLEY	Away	Drew	2-2
GILLINGHAM	Home	Lost	0-1
BRENTFORD	Away	Lost	0-3
PLYMOUTH ARGYLE	Home	Won	2-1

BELL ADDS EXPERIENCE TO YOUNG BOLTON SIDE

by Tony Pullein

Bolton manager John McGovern signed Graham Bell from Carlisle in February to bring extra experience to what is a fairly young Trotters' side. Graham is a ball-winning midfielder player whose ability to set up attacking moves from deep positions once took him to the fringe of selection for the England team.

Graham began his career with Oldham Athletic and first won international recognition when picked for the England youth team against Scotland in January 1973, being called on as substitute on that occasion. He later played full games against Wales and Ireland.

It was in December 1973 that he was offered professional terms by Oldham and he made his Second Division debut against Bristol City in August 1974 at the age of 19.

He performed so well that he immediately won a regular first-team spot and it wasn't long before England's then manager Don Revie was impressed by his whole-hearted midfield play. Mr. Revie said at the time that age had no bearing upon whom he picked for England and hinted that Graham had been pencilled into his notebook for future consideration.

Unfortunately, Mr. Revie later resigned as England's manager and Graham never did get the chance to show his skills even at Under-21 level.

But he played consistently well for Oldham for five years and it was shortly before the March transfer deadline in 1979 that Preston signed him for £80,000.

At the time North End had an outside chance of winning promotion from the Second Division. They continued to challenge after Graham's arrival but in the end had to settle for seventh place.

Graham himself had ambitions to play in the First Division and, with optimism high at Deepdale, felt he might achieve that objective with Preston. But, after enjoying a fairly successful campaign in 1979/80, disaster struck and Preston were relegated at the end of the following season.

"The situation became quite desperate towards the end," he recalls. "with most clubs having completed their fixtures, we stood third from bottom but we had one game still to play. And so did Cardiff who were one point above us.

"We had to wait for the following Wednesday when Cardiff were at home to West Ham and we travelled to Derby. They had a better goal-average so we needed to win to have any chance.

"It was a very tense game with no one wanting to make a mistake. It was 0-0 at half-time but we scored two second-half goals through Alex Bruce to win 2-1. As we came off the pitch we all wondered what had happened to Cardiff.

"When we heard that they had drawn 0-0 we were, of course, very depressed. For goal-average had put us down into the Third Division."

Life in the Third didn't suit Graham and he lost his place in the Preston side. In November 1981 he joined Huddersfield Town on loan and played a couple of first-team games for them.

Graham didn't take long to regain his first-team place at Preston, though, and he remained a fixture in the side until the end of last season when he was given a free-transfer.

During the summer he was signed by Carlisle United and was somewhat relieved to return to Second Division football. But he found he was not always assured of a place in the Cumbrians' team so, when Bolton laid down a new challenge for him in February, he was happy to accept.

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AROUND THE THIRD

by Tony Pullein

It's just possible for Oxford to clinch top place in the Third Division over the Easter holiday period and thus become only the second club to carry off the Third Division championship on two occasions. Portsmouth won this divisional title for the second time last season.

To do that we should have to win full points from our games against Bolton, at The Manor today, and Bristol Rovers at Eastville tomorrow. And Hull City and Wimbledon would have to come out of the programme with little to show for the effort. So it may be a week or so longer before Oxford are able to clinch the championship.

But one honour that did come the club's way this week was the inclusion of Kevin Brock in the England Under-21 team for the first-leg of the UEFA Under-21 tournament against Italy at Maine Road.

It is exceedingly rare for a Third Division player to break into the England Under-21 set-up.

Since the Under-21 team was launched in 1976 only three outfield players have got into the side and the last two — Gary Mabbutt (then of Bristol Rovers) and Luther Blissett (Watford) — both went on to gain full England caps.

Dave Swindlehurst, who played as a Crystal Palace player in England's very first Under-21 international back in 1976, hasn't yet played in the full England team but his goalscoring feats for West Ham this season suggest that he could still make it.

The only other Third Division player to appear in the England Under-21s was goalkeeper Iain Hesford, of Blackpool, in 1980/81.

Wimbledon's fine recovery to win 2-1 at Lincoln last Saturday, following closely upon their 2-1 mid-week win at Plymouth, did much to answer local critics who had been accusing the club of trying to miss promotion.

A succession of slips on their own ground, culminating with a 4-1 hammering by Hull City a fortnight ago, brought taunts from the crowd who felt the club was trying to slip out of the promotion bracket.

When I telephoned the club, to check on how much it was going to cost to bring Plough Lane up to the safety standards required of Second Division clubs according to the law, prior to the Lincoln match, I was very much taken to task.

"As a matter of fact it's not going to cost very much," said an official. "Not very much needs doing really. Are you suggesting that, because of our recent results, we are not trying?"

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The Dons seemed to be heading for defeat when Neil Redfearn, who is on loan from today's Manor visitors Bolton Wanderers, gave Lincoln the lead with a neat lob in the 23rd minute. But, after Stewart Evans had levelled the scores, Glyn Hodges scored Wimbledon's winner in the last minute.

Plymouth Argyle's dream of becoming the first Third Division side to reach the F.A. Cup final did not end without glory at Villa Park where they lost so narrowly (0-1) to Watford in the semi-final.

Watford manager Graham Taylor, clearly relieved that his side had made it to Wembley for the first time, was full of praise for Plymouth. "We knew they could play and they caused us a lot of problems at times," he said. "They could have beaten us but we're happy that we got the one goal that mattered."

While Argyle were on Cup duty their Third Division future was being placed in jeopardy by the revival of several clubs in the relegation zone. The stark position for Plymouth, as they travelled home, was that they were only five points ahead of the 21st club Scunthorpe United who ended a productive week in the south with an invaluable point from Bournemouth, and this they followed up with another point from a 1-1 home draw with Port Vale on Tuesday.

Southend broke their run by beating Bradford City on Monday, the Shrimpers first League victory for 18 matches. However, Exeter continued their bleak run with a 0-1 defeat at Hull City, their 16th match without victory where they put up a stout defensive display for 63 minutes before Alan Taylor got through for the only goal of the game.

Brentford placed Plymouth in greater danger with their 3-0 win over Bolton. Francis Joseph scored two of Brentford's goals and it was a shot of his that Ray Deakin had the misfortune to turn into his own net for their third. Joseph has now scored 21 goals in all competitions.

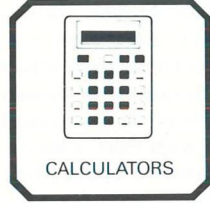
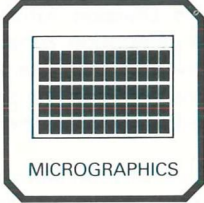
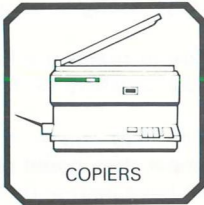
Rotherham United went two goals up at Burnley in only nine minutes but in the end had to settle for a draw which extended their revival to five games without defeat.

So, with Port Vale picking up points from 1-1 draws at Gillingham and Scunthorpe, Plymouth have clearly got some work to do if they are to avoid the bitter-sweet experience of coupling what was the club's greatest-ever achievement — in reaching the F.A. Cup semi-final — with relegation to Division Four for the first time.



Steve Biggins opportunist header beats goalkeeper John Keeley for his second goal against Southend United at the Manor on Saturday. Photo: Steve Daniels.

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Rotherham United	Bob Hammick

EASTER OFTEN SORTS THEM OUT

The Easter holiday games — particularly when they come late, like this year — usually go a long way towards deciding many of the promotion and relegation issues.

Last season Fulham looked certain to return to the First Division when they led Leicester, the fourth club, by seven points — and also had a game in hand — at the start of the Easter programme.

The Cottagers dropped a home point to Chelsea and then lost at Cambridge in holiday games, lost their nerve completely and went on to lose four of their final eight games as Leicester overtook them.

Bolton Wanderers, who visit The Manor today, also had good reason to regret the events of last Easter. Though relegation was a danger, they were eighth from bottom of the Second Division and seemed confident of keeping clear.

But their disastrous Easter opened with a 1-2 home defeat by Leeds and continued with a 0-5 hiding at Carlisle. They won only one more game and were doomed to relegation on the last day of the season.

Easter certainly seems to sort the men out from the boys and this year the pressure is going to be tremendous for clubs like Hull City, Wimbledon and Sheffield United who will all need maximum points to feel comfortable.

Sometimes a club that has no hopes at the beginning of Easter comes out with a glimmer of a chance. Nine years ago Derby County had long given up hope of winning the League Championship. They were seventh in the table, four points behind leaders Everton and there were only eight games left to play.

Possibly because they had no pressures on them, Derby enjoyed a glorious Easter, picking up full points from smashing victories over Luton (3-0), Burnley (5-2 away) and Manchester City (2-1). At the end of the holiday Derby were level with new leaders Ipswich!

Later the Rams went on to take the title.

This Easter Derby desperately need points to stop them dropping into the Third Division!

In 1975/76 the First Division championship was also settled by Easter events. Queen's Park Rangers, who looked an outstanding side, lost a silly game at Norwich 2-3 while Liverpool took full points from Stoke (5-2) and Manchester City (3-0 away).

That reverse at Norwich was Q.P.R.'s *only* defeat in their last 15 games. But it was to cost them the title. Liverpool pipped them by one point.

It's a cruel way to have a life time's dream ruined. But that is the way it is in the toughest League in the world.

The most dramatic collapse ever known in English football occurred back in 1949 over Easter. Southampton led the Second Division by six clear points as we went into the Easter programme. Promotion was, to all intents and purposes, a formality.

But, after winning at Grimsby (1-0) on Good Friday, the Saints lost 0-1 at Bury and then drew 0-0 at home to Grimsby. Meanwhile, Fulham picked up six points whilst W.B.A. picked up four. And, on the last day of the season, both those clubs crept above the Saints to steal promotion.

Several outstanding scoring feats have been performed over Easter. Joe Payne created the existing League record with 10 goals for Luton on his debut as a centre-forward against Bristol Rovers at Easter 1936. In 1931, Reading's Alex Bacon crashed six goals into Stoke's net.

Liverpool are traditionally strong finishers and this Easter a repeat performance could well clinch for them that fabulous hat-trick of Football League Championships. Joe Fagan's team is at home to West Bromwich Albion tomorrow, then travel to Leicester on Monday.

Full points from those games, coupled with any failure by Manchester United, could put them beyond reach.

The last club to complete three successive Championships was Arsenal and it was at Easter that they proved beyond all doubt they were England's best team. The Gunners crushed Middlesbrough 8-0 at Highbury and they then scored a 1-0 home win over Huddersfield — the only other club to achieve a hat-trick of titles (1924-25-26) — before rounding off the holiday with a 1-0 win at Middlesbrough.

CANON LEAGUE DIVISION 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxford United	39	15	3	1	49	19	10	4	6	29	25	82
Wimbledon	40	13	5	2	54	31	9	3	8	34	39	74
Hull City	39	14	4	2	35	10	6	9	4	26	21	73
Sheffield United	40	12	7	1	50	15	8	4	8	27	32	71
Bristol Rovers	40	14	4	2	40	17	4	7	9	18	32	65
Walsall	40	12	4	4	39	20	7	4	9	20	35	65
Bolton Wanderers	40	12	4	4	33	14	5	6	9	19	33	61
Gillingham	39	11	3	5	42	24	6	6	8	20	33	60
Burnley	39	12	5	2	50	16	3	9	8	20	28	59
Bradford City	37	9	7	2	42	27	7	2	10	23	27	57
Millwall	37	13	3	2	31	15	1	9	9	23	38	54
Wigan Athletic	40	10	5	6	25	17	4	7	8	18	31	54
Orient	39	11	5	4	31	21	4	4	11	24	43	54
Newport County	38	10	7	3	31	24	4	5	9	20	38	54
Lincoln City	39	10	4	6	38	24	4	5	10	13	30	51
Preston North End	40	10	5	5	38	24	3	5	12	21	34	49
AFC Bournemouth	40	9	4	7	30	23	3	2	15	21	44	42
Plymouth Argyle	38	8	8	3	29	14	2	2	15	15	40	40
Brentford	40	6	8	6	34	29	3	5	12	25	45	40
Rotherham United	38	6	5	7	18	15	4	4	12	25	39	39
Scunthorpe United	38	6	9	4	31	29	0	9	10	13	34	36
Port Vale	39	8	3	8	28	25	1	5	14	14	47	35
Southend United	38	6	8	5	27	20	1	5	13	18	44	34
Exeter City	39	3	7	10	24	35	2	6	11	22	37	28

FIRST TEAM STATISTICS

	Appearances		Goals	
	League	Cups	League	Cups
John Aldridge	0(1)	—	—	—
Gary Barnett	17(1)	7(2)	7	—
Steve Biggins	30(5)	14(2)	17	5
Gary Briggs	30(2)	18	1	—
Kevin Brock	39	18	3	4
John Butcher	—	1	—	—
David Fogg	2	1	—	—
Stuart Gibson	—	0(1)	—	—
David Grant	4	1	—	—
Steve Hardwick	39	18	—	—
Trevor Hebbard	39	17	10	—
Paul Hinshelwood	37	18	—	1
Mark Jones	7(7)	1(4)	2	—
George Lawrence	30	18	8	3
Bobby McDonald	34	18	4	5
Les Phillips	0(2)	—	—	—
Peter Rhoades-Brown	14(1)	3	4	—
Malcolm Shotton	36	19	1	—
Andy Thomas	23	12	7	2
Colin Todd	11	—	—	—
Ray Train	1	2(1)	—	—
John Treweek	3	2	—	—
Mick Vinter	22(1)	15(1)	9	3
Neil Whatmore	11(2)	6(3)	3	1
Own Goals			2	3

HOME ATTENDANCES

	Average	Highest
Sheffield United (4)	12,112	22,756 v. Rotherham United
Hull City (3)	9,228	18,461 v. Scunthorpe United
Oxford United (1)	7,364	12,748 v. Bristol Rovers
Burnley (9)	6,978	12,136 v. Bradford City
Bolton Wanderers (7)	5,865	11,059 v. Oxford United
Bristol Rovers (5)	5,615	7,472 v. Sheffield United
Walsall (6)	5,309	10,163 v. Oxford United
Plymouth Argyle (18)	5,080	10,387 v. Exeter City
Brentford (19)	4,692	8,042 v. Burnley
Millwall (11)	4,682	6,709 v. Burnley
Preston North End (16)	4,607	8,745 v. Burnley
Rotherham United (20)	4,332	6,298 v. Hull City
Bradford City (10)	4,249	9,262 v. Sheffield United
Gillingham (8)	4,195	6,226 v. Millwall
Port Vale (22)	4,192	7,034 v. Sheffield United
AFC Bournemouth (17)	4,130	7,220 v. Newport County
Wigan Athletic (12)	3,946	10,045 v. Bolton Wanderers
Lincoln City (15)	3,353	6,686 v. Sheffield United
Exeter City (24)	3,300	5,310 v. Bristol Rovers
Newport County (14)	3,222	5,154 v. Plymouth Argyle
Wimbledon (2)	3,204	5,613 v. Millwall
Scunthorpe United (21)	3,197	6,750 v. Sheffield United
Orient (13)	3,113	4,470 v. Burnley
Southend United (23)	2,711	4,272 v. Millwall
League position in brackets		

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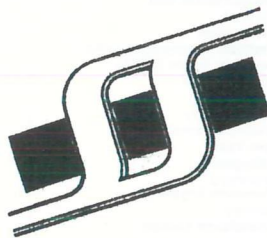
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DATE	OPPONENTS	RES.	1	2	3	4	5
1983							
Aug. 27	Lincoln City	3-0	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	Fogg	Thomas	Briggs
31	Bristol City (MC 1) (1L)	1-1	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	Grant	Thomas(S)	Briggs
Sept. 3	Wigan Athletic	2-0	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	Grant	Thomas	Briggs(1)(S)
7	Scunthorpe United	0-0	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	Grant	Thomas	Briggs
10	Burnley	2-2	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas(1)	Briggs
12	Bristol City (MC 1) (2L)	1-0	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas(1)	Briggs
17	Gillingham	3-2	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas	Briggs
24	Millwall	4-2	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas	Briggs
28	Walsall	6-3	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald(S)	Thomas(2)	Briggs
Oct. 1	Preston North End	2-1	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas(1)	Briggs
5	Newcastle United (MC2) (1L)	1-1	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas	Briggs
8	Brentford	2-1	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas	Briggs
15	Plymouth Argyle	1-2	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas	Briggs
19	Bradford City	2-0	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas	Briggs
22	Bournemouth	1-2	Hardwick	Hinshelwood(S)	McDonald	Thomas	Briggs
26	Newcastle United (MC2) (2L)	2-1	Hardwick	Fogg	McDonald	Thomas(1)	Briggs
29	Hull City	1-1	Hardwick	Fogg	McDonald	Thomas	Briggs
Nov. 1	Wimbledon	1-3	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas(1)	Briggs
5	Sheffield United	2-2	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas	Jones
9	Leeds United (MC3)	1-1	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas	Jones
12	Port Vale	3-1	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas(1)	Briggs
19	Peterborough United (FA1)	2-0*	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas	Briggs
23	Leeds United (MC3-Replay)	4-1	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas	Briggs
26	Newport County	2-0	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas(1)	Briggs
30	Manchester United (MC4)	1-1	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald(1)	Thomas	Briggs
Dec. 2	Southend United	1-0	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas	Briggs
7	Manchester United (MC4-Replay)	1-1aet	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas	Briggs
10	Reading (FA2)	1-1	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas(S)	Briggs
14	Reading (FA2-Replay)	3-0	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald(1)	Thomas	Briggs
17	Rotherham United	2-1	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas	Briggs
19	Manchester United (MC4-2R)	2-1 aet	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas	Briggs
26	Bristol Rovers	3-2	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas	Briggs
27	Bolton Wanderers	0-1	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Thomas	Briggs
31	Orient	5-2	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	Grant	Thomas	Briggs
1984							
Jan. 2	Exeter City	1-3	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	Grant	Thomas(S)	Briggs
7	Burnley (FA3)	0-0	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Barnett	Briggs
11	Burnley (FA3-Replay)	2-1*	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Barnett	Briggs
14	Lincoln City	2-2	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Train	Briggs
18	Everton (MC5)	1-1	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald(1)	Train	Briggs
24	Everton (MC5-Replay)	1-4	Hardwick	Hinshelwood(1)	McDonald	Trewick	Briggs
28	Blackpool (FA4)	2-1	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald(2)	Trewick	Briggs
Feb. 4	Preston North End	2-0	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Trewick	Briggs
11	Millwall	1-2*	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Trewick	Briggs
15	Wimbledon	2-0*	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald(1)	Trewick	Briggs
18	Sheffield Wednesday (FA5)	0-3	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Brock	Briggs
22	Swindon Town (AM1)	1-3*	Butcher	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Train	Briggs(S)
25	Bournemouth	3-2	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Brock(1)	Briggs
28	Hull City	1-0	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Brock	Todd
Mar. 3	Bradford City	2-2	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Brock	Todd
6	Sheffield United	2-1	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Brock	Todd
10	Port Vale	2-0	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald(1)	Brock	Briggs
14	Gillingham	0-1	Hardwick	Hinshelwood(S)	McDonald	Brock	Briggs
17	Brentford	2-1	Hardwick	Shotton	McDonald	Brock	Briggs
24	Plymouth Argyle	5-0	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald(2)	Brock(S)	Todd
27	Burnley	1-1	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Brock	Todd
31	Scunthorpe United	1-0	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Brock	Todd
Apr. 7	Walsall	1-0	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Brock	Todd
14	Southend United	2-1	Hardwick	Hinshelwood	McDonald	Brock	Todd
20	Bolton Wanderers						
21	Bristol Rovers						
28	Newport County						
May 2	Wigan Athletic						
5	Exeter City						
7	Orient						
12	Rotherham United						

* — OWN GOAL;

(S) — PLAYER SUBSTITUTED;

(P) — SUBSTITUTE PLAYED

6	7	8	9	10	11	12	CROWDS
Shotton	Lawrence(1)	Whatmore(1)	Biggins(1)	Hebberd	Brock	Vinter	4239
Shotton	Lawrence	Whatmore	Biggins	Hebberd	Brock(1)	Vinter(P)	3924
Shotton	Lawrence	Whatmore	Biggins	Hebberd	Brock	Vinter(P)(1)	2697
Shotton	Lawrence	Whatmore(S)	Vinter	Hebberd	Brock	Biggins(P)	3516
Shotton	Lawrence(1)	Vinter	Biggins	Hebberd	Brock	Barnett	5637
Shotton	Lawrence	Vinter(S)	Biggins	Hebberd	Brock	Barnett (P)	5163
Shotton	Lawrence	Barnett(1)(S)	Biggins(1)	Hebberd(1)	Brock	Jones(P)	3370
Shotton	Lawrence(2)	Barnett(1)	Biggins(S)	Hebberd	Brock	Jones(P)(1)	5543
Shotton	Lawrence(2)	Barnett(2)	Biggins	Hebberd	Brock	Jones(P)	5720
Shotton	Lawrence	Barnett	Biggins(1)	Hebberd	Brock	Jones	4665
Shotton	Lawrence	Barnett	Biggins(1)	Hebberd	Brock	Jones	21167
Shotton	Lawrence	Barnett	Biggins(2)	Hebberd	Brock	Jones	7140
Shotton	Lawrence(1)	Barnett	Biggins	Hebberd	Brock	Jones	2990
Shotton	Lawrence	Barnett	Biggins	Hebberd(2)	Brock	Jones	5624
Shotton	Lawrence	Barnett(1)	Biggins	Hebberd	Brock	Jones(P)	4758
Shotton	Lawrence	Barnett	Whatmore(1)(S)	Hebberd	Brock	Jones(P)	13040
Shotton	Lawrence(1)	Barnett	Whatmore	Hebberd	Brock	Jones	7884
Shotton	Lawrence	Barnett	Whatmore(S)	Hebberd	Brock	Jones(P)	3821
Shotton	Barnett(1)	Vinter	Whatmore	Hebberd	Brock(S)	Biggins(P)(1)	7514
Shotton	Lawrence(S)	Biggins	Vinter (1)	Hebberd	Brock	Barnett(P)	13349
Shotton	Lawrence	Biggins	Vinter	Hebberd(2)	Brock	Jones	3927
Shotton	Lawrence	Biggins(1)	Vinter	Hebberd	Brock	Jones	6343
Shotton	Lawrence(1)	Biggins(1)	Vinter(1)	Hebberd	Brock(1)	Jones	13389
Shotton	Lawrence	Biggins	Vinter(1)	Hebberd	Brock	Jones	6330
Shotton	Lawrence	Biggins(S)	Vinter	Hebberd	Brock	Jones(P)	13739
Shotton	Barnett(S)	Biggins(1)	Vinter	Hebberd	Brock	Jones(P)	2559
Shotton	Lawrence	Biggins	Vinter	Hebberd	Brock(1)	Jones	27459
Shotton	Lawrence	Biggins(1)	Vinter	Hebberd	Brock	Jones(P)	11590
Shotton(S)	Lawrence	Barnett	Vinter(1)	Hebberd	Brock(1)	Whatmore(P)	7570
Barnett(S)	Lawrence	Biggins	Vinter	Hebberd	Brock	Whatmore(P)(2)	4000
Shotton	Lawrence(1)	Whatmore(S)	Vinter	Hebberd	Brock	Biggins(P)(1)	13921
Shotton	Lawrence	Biggins	Vinter(2)	Hebberd	Brock(1)	Whatmore	12748
Shotton	Lawrence(S)	Biggins	Vinter	Hebberd	Brock	Whatmore(P)	11059
Shotton	Lawrence	Whatmore	Vinter(2)	Hebberd(2)	Brock(1)	Biggins	11126
Shotton	Barnett(1)	Whatmore	Vinter	Hebberd	Brock	Biggins(P)	4527
Shotton	Lawrence	Whatmore(S)	Vinter	Hebberd	Brock	Biggins(P)	11672
Shotton	Lawrence(1)	Biggins	Vinter	Hebberd	Brock	Whatmore	10497
Shotton	Lawrence	Biggins	Vinter(1)	Hebberd(1)	Brock	Whatmore	3345
Shotton	Lawrence	Biggins	Vinter	Hebberd(S)	Brock	Whatmore(P)	14333
Shotton	Lawrence	Biggins	Vinter	Barnett(S)	Brock	Train(P)	31011
Shotton	Lawrence	Whatmore	Vinter	Brock	Rhoades-Brown	Biggins	10759
Shotton	Lawrence	Hebberd(1)	Vinter(1)	Brock	Rhoades-Brown(S)	Biggins(P)	9105
Shotton	Lawrence	Hebberd	Vinter	Brock	Rhoades-Brown(S)	Biggins(P)	4974
Shotton	Lawrence	Hebberd	Vinter(S)	Brock	Biggins	Rhoades-Brown(P)	7640
Shotton	Lawrence	Biggins	Vinter	Hebberd	Rhoades-Brown(S)	Whatmore(P)	14076
Shotton	Barnett(S)	Whatmore	Biggins	Hebberd	Rhoades-Brown	Jones(P) Gibson(P)	4744
Shotton	Lawrence	Biggins(1)	Whatmore(S)	Hebberd	Rhoades-Brown(1)	Barnett(P)	6535
Shotton	Lawrence	Whatmore	Vinter(1)	Hebberd	Rhoades-Brown	Briggs	11790
Shotton	Lawrence	Biggins(1)	Whatmore	Hebberd	Rhoades-Brown(1)(S)	Briggs(P)	7322
Shotton	Lawrence	Biggins(2)	Vinter	Hebberd	Rhoades-Brown(S)	Briggs(P)	17910
Todd	Lawrence	Biggins	Barnett	Hebberd	Rhoades-Brown(1)	Whatmore	7645
Todd	Lawrence	Biggins	Barnett	Hebberd	Rhoades-Brown	Jones(P)	7433
Todd	Jones	Biggins(1)	Barnett	Hebberd(1)	Rhoades-Brown	Fogg	5936
Shotton	Jones	Biggins(3)	Vinter	Hebberd	Rhoades-Brown	Phillips(P)	7777
Shotton	Jones(1)	Biggins	Vinter	Hebberd	Rhoades-Brown(S)	Phillips(P)	7993
Shotton(1)	Jones	Biggins	Vinter	Hebberd	Rhoades-Brown	Phillips	6747
Shotton	Jones	Biggins	Vinter(S)	Hebberd	Rhoades-Brown(1)	Aldridge(P)	10163
Shotton	Jones	Biggins(2)	Vinter	Hebberd	Rhoades-Brown	Aldridge	7538

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RESERVES & YOUTH

FOOTBALL COMBINATION SEASON 1983-84

1983			
Sept.	1	LEICESTER CITY	4-4
	3	Swansea City	1-2
	7	ARSENAL	0-4
	13	Ipswich Town	0-3
	20	Crystal Palace	1-1
Oct.	1	West Ham United	0-0
	5	WATFORD	2-1
	12	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	2-4
	18	Fulham	1-2
	22	BIRMINGHAM CITY	2-2
	26	Millwall	0-1
Nov.	2	SOUTHAMPTON	2-1
	16	Norwich City	1-1
	22	Luton Town	1-0
	29	Brighton & H. A.	0-2
Dec.	7	QUEENS PARK RANGERS	0-2
	14	Bristol Rovers	0-8
1984			
Jan.	4	CHELSEA	2-3
	14	READING	2-1
	18	Leicester City	2-7
	31	Chelsea	0-4
Feb.	8	CRYSTAL PALACE	2-0
	11	Watford	0-4
	14	Swindon Town	1-1
	27	Reading	3-1
	29	MILLWALL	0-1
Mar.	5	SWINDON TOWN	0-0
	7	WEST HAM UNITED	0-3
	10	Southampton	1-3
	17	BRIGHTON & H.A.	1-2
	20	Charlton Athletic	0-1
	28	FULHAM	2-1
	31	Arsenal	0-2
Apr.	3	Birmingham City	5-3
	5	CHARLTON ATHLETIC	1-2
	7	SWANSEA CITY	2-1
	11	NORWICH CITY	4-1
	16	Tottenham Hotspur	2-2
	25	IPSWICH TOWN	
	28	LUTON TOWN	
	30	BRISTOL ROVERS	
May	8	Queens Park Rangers	

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES JUNIOR LEAGUE SEASON 1983-84

1983			
Aug.	27	Tottenham Hotspur	1-2
Sept.	3	West Ham United	2-6
	10	Wimbledon	1-2
	24	SOUTHEAD UNITED	4-0
	29	Aston Villa (SJFC)	0-3
Oct.	8	BRISTOL ROVERS	3-2
	15	LUTON TOWN	0-0
	29	Luton Town	2-1
Nov.	9	Erith & Belvedere (FAYC)	0-0
	14	ERITH & BELVEDERE (FAYC-R)	7-0
	19	SWINDON TOWN (SECJLC)	2-5
Dec.	3	WIMBLEDON	2-4
	5	Plymouth Argyle (FAYC)	1-3
	17	BRIGHTON & H. A.	1-1
1984			
Jan.	7	Bristol Rovers	2-0
Feb.	4	SWINDON TOWN	1-5
	18	BRENTFORD	0-1
Mar.	3	Swindon Town	0-3
	10	WEST HAM UNITED	2-1
	17	Southend United	6-0
	31	Brighton & H. A.	1-0
Apr.	7	READING	2-4
	14	TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR	1-4
	19	Reading	

SJFC — Southern Junior Floodlit Cup

SECJLC — South East Counties Junior League Cup

FAYC — F.A. Youth Cup

SOUTH EAST COUNTIES JUNIOR LEAGUE Table of Results as at 17.4.84

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon Town	17	11	4	2	58	24	26
Brentford	17	12	2	3	40	24	26
Wimbledon	19	11	3	5	67	22	25
Bristol Rovers	19	9	2	8	39	31	20
West Ham United	18	9	2	7	42	40	20
Tottenham Hotspur	20	8	3	9	45	45	19
Luton Town	18	7	3	8	32	33	17
Oxford United	18	7	2	9	31	36	16
Reading	17	6	3	8	28	35	15
Brighton & H.A.	17	3	7	7	23	36	13
Southend United	20	1	1	18	15	87	3

THE FOOTBALL COMBINATION Table of Results as at 17.4.84

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	32	23	5	4	71	17	51
West Ham United	36	19	8	9	88	43	46
Chelsea	34	21	4	9	71	26	46
Tottenham Hotspur	37	18	8	11	95	56	44
Luton Town	35	17	10	8	66	38	44
Watford	33	19	6	8	69	46	44
Queens Park Rangers	34	18	7	9	66	31	43
Leicester City	38	17	7	14	85	58	41
Norwich City	33	15	10	8	58	32	40
Southampton	34	14	12	8	56	43	40
Ipswich Town	36	16	8	12	59	47	40
Brighton & H.A.	36	15	7	14	53	55	37
Birmingham City	34	13	5	16	64	67	31
Millwall	32	13	5	14	45	56	31
Fulham	34	12	6	16	55	62	30
Swansea City	33	12	4	17	49	68	28
Oxford United	38	10	8	20	46	83	28
Charlton Athletic	36	10	8	18	41	79	28
Bristol Rovers	35	8	6	21	52	92	22
Swindon Town	31	5	7	19	33	75	17
Crystal Palace	32	3	10	19	24	77	16
Reading	35	3	5	27	28	124	11



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FLASHBACK

10 YEARS AGO

LUTON TOWN 0 UNITED 1
Skeen

April 16th 1974
Attendance: 16,353

United eased their relegation worries with a magnificent 1-0 victory over promotion seeking Luton. Playing in all white United defended miraculously, but much of the credit must go to Roy Burton who played with perfect judgement and certainty throughout.

Every United player played well, but the top performance came from that long servant Ken Skeen. He chased everything and indeed scored United's only goal after 15 minutes with a hammered shot from 20 yards.

United relied on breaks in the second half as the pressure mounted and went close with efforts from Curran and Bray, before Burton made a marvellous point blank save in the last minute.

UNITED: Burton, Light, Shuker, Roberts, Clarke C., Briggs M., Skeen, Fleming, Curran, Bray, Aylott, Sub: Atkinson, G.

20 YEARS AGO

BRADFORD CITY 2 UNITED 1
Calder

April 18th 1964
Attendance: 8,972

United were largely outpaced and outgunned in the first half by a smart and slick Bradford City, and it was no surprise to find United trailing 2-0 at half-time.

In the second half, United began to regain a measure of control in midfield, and struck back through Calder 16 minutes from the end. City seemed to struggle from then on and United would have equalized but for some ineffective finishing.

John Fahy, making his League debut after his transfer from Bedford Town, was out of his class and looked inexperienced. But in defence Maurice Kyle was outstanding and the man of the match for his coolness under pressure and all round craftsmanship.

UNITED: Rouse, Beavon, Quartermain, Atkinson R., Kyle, Shuker, Calder, Willey, Fahy, Jones, Harrington.

30 YEARS AGO

TONBRIDGE 3 UNITED 0
Parker (o.g.)
Constantine 2

April 19th 1954

United were well below the form which has taken them to second place in the League. Only superb goalkeeping by Ansell prevented Tonbridge from doubling their total. United should have scored at least once when Peart missed an open goal after the keeper had mis-timed his jump.

Tonbridge's first goal 13 minutes before half-time was rather bad luck. It took a wicked deflection off left-back Parker.

Two minutes later Constantine scored his first and added a second with only minutes left. With an attack that never got going and an extremely shaky defence, United would have been hit for six without Ansell.

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OVER THE AIRWAVES

by Peter Baker, Sports Producer, Radio Oxford

I don't think it's tempting fate to say that we at Radio Oxford are looking towards the end of the season and working out what sort of congratulatory programme to produce to record the great deeds of Oxford United during 1983-84. We're not the only ones either . . . two representatives from Canon, who sponsor the League, were at the Manor last week to see Jim Smith and arrange with him their festivities. It looks as if the last Saturday of the season is the obvious date on which to celebrate . . . United are at home against Rotherham . . . and we intend to present the whole of our Saturday afternoon sport and music programme from the Manor. No doubt, most of you reading this programme will be here as well, so will miss our programme, but shortly after the end of the season, we will be having an evening (or two) when we'll go through the archives and dig out the most interesting bits from this wonderful season. Hopefully some of the players will be in the studio with us and we can have a good nostalgic time in their company!!

Snippets of commentary which are certain to be included are Steve Biggins' winning header against Manchester United, Kevin Brock's free kick, also against Man. U., and we'll have to include Everton's equalising goal at the Manor (sorry, Kevin!), various comments by Jim Smith, Robert Maxwell, Ray Graydon and several of the players. Star of the show may well be Steve Hardwick who's made many extremely funny comments to us throughout the season . . . Ron Atkinson's sure to get his spoke in, and Jim Hunt, etc., etc. Make sure you don't miss it . . . we'll decide on the exact date and time in the very near future.

Come on you yellows!! (I want 100 points)

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IN OFF THE POST

At our match with Plymouth Argyle on 24th March approximately 3500 programmes were sold. This meant that nearly 1 in 2 people at the match obtained a programme, many undoubtedly read other people's.

In the programme was an article on Third Division programme awards. Oxford's programme was described as having a lovely cover design that masked a rather ordinary set of contents and bland design.

In order to gauge the supporter views, the likes and the dislikes we asked for letters on the subject. The result was extremely disappointing with only three replies, all of which have been printed below. In recognition of their efforts, the three entrants will shortly receive a £2 voucher for the use of purchasing programmes from the Club Shop.

Letters & Editor replies

I would like to thank the three people who took the trouble to write in, and I am pleased to say that generally speaking they seem to appreciate the programme, which I believe is an improvement on recent seasons' issues.

Following the Programme Monthly awards, in which we did not do to well, the Wirral Programme Club this week announced their awards for the 1983/84 season. Oxford United programme came third in the Division III category, behind Bristol Rovers and Orient, and was also placed 20th nationally, in a joint English and Scottish survey won by the Ipswich Town issue.

Despite this recognition, I am always looking for ways in which to improve the programme within financial constraints and so any ideas, suggestions and criticisms would be welcomed.

Mick Brown — Editor

24 Mayfield Street,
Springbank,
Hull,

Dear Editor,

After reading the article on programme awards, in the United programme for the Plymouth match, I decided to respond to the request for supporters' views.

As a United fan living too far away from Oxford to attend many matches, I rely on the programme, which I receive on subscription, to keep me in touch with the club news. Therefore, I favour a programme with plenty of this sort of information. This season's format is one of the best of recent years.

The most important features, as far as I am concerned, are the "For the Record" pages, "Jim Smith's Team Talk", "From the Secretary's Desk" and, particularly "On Parade". I also enjoy "Flashback".

As for other features, I think less space could be devoted to details of what's going on "Around the Third" and I'm not particularly interested in the quiz, although I would image this is a popular feature. I think the balance between photographs and articles is about right.

I must admit that the only other Third Division programme I have seen this season is that of Hull City, which is not as good as United's, though considerably cheaper.

I've got one suggestion for the cover for next season's programme — an action shot of the goal that clinches the Third Division title!

Yours sincerely,
GEORGE KIRKMAN

THE EDITOR REPLIES: Club information is always popular, and so I have tried to include as much as possible in a number of varying articles involving Club personalities, which I am pleased to see you enjoy.

As you so rightly suggest, and judging by the number of letters I receive from visiting supporters requesting an answer sheet, the quiz although difficult, is a popular item, together with "Around the Third".

Finally, I hope to have a photographer working in colour, for this season's remaining home fixtures, in an attempt to capture some of this season's action and hopefully to capture the goal you mention in your letter.

Dear Editor,

The present programme is an ideal size. The cover is by far the best in the Third Division, and is only equalled by Everton from the sides that played United in the Milk Cup. The "For the Record" spread is the best and clearest I have seen. The number of photos and readable notes is nicely balanced. Too many programmes are itty-bity.

I would like to suggest a couple of ideas which might improve the programme. On the inside of the cover I would like to see the clubs' records displayed, record victory, most league points etc. The slightest touch of colour inside, a page of one seasons performances and the colour of the visitors teamstrip.

A treat at the start of the season, a colour team-photo in the middle. Keep up the good standard, I hate to admit it but the worst programme in my collection is the United v. Watford programme from 1979.

Yours sincerely
GRAHAM BEACHAM

THE EDITOR REPLIES: Because a number of Club records have been broken this season, all the club's achievements will be displayed in next season's programme, as you suggest.

With regards to a colour programme, cost is the main consideration. A single colour issue is out of the question, as is a full colour issue for the season. If some colour were introduced throughout the season, we would be very restricted in the programme layout, because all the colour would have to be pre-printed. However, I am in discussion at the moment with our printers, to see what improvements can be made for next season.

Your suggestion relating to a season by season analysis is a very good one, and something I have considered in the past. But I am currently short of a number of appearance records especially from the early 50's, and so unable to compile a full analysis.

14 The Ridings,
Emmer Green,
Reading.

Dear Editor,

I have been supporting Oxford for many years and the programmes have gone from strength to strength and I thoroughly enjoy reading them from cover to cover. There are a few points I would like to raise:- more photos of players and of them in action. I think it is important to have team statistics and team line up's of United and the opponents as it provides information about the team and it's opponents, details of player's and form of the current team. I would like to see something on the Reserves and Youth teams because one day those players will be playing League football and this would breach the gap between the 1st team and the 2nd team.

Yours sincerely,
ROBERT ARCHER (age 14)

THE EDITOR REPLIES: Julian Wood, the lad who wrote the excellent reserve team match reports in last season's programme has since left the club to work abroad, and unfortunately I have been unable to replace him.

If anybody is interested in writing these reports either on a regular or occasional basis, please contact me at the Club.



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FROM THE SECRETARY'S DESK

Welcome to the Manor for our first Good Friday fixture for some time and I hope our decision to revert back to what always used to be our best crowd pulling day of the season proves to be the right one with a bumper gate.

I have no reason to believe there will be anything short of, at the very least, our second best League gate of the season, always assuming we are blessed with good weather.

Our best League gate this season was in fact the 12,748 on Boxing Day and the only reason I believe this figure will not be surpassed today is that I would not expect Bolton Wanderers to bring anywhere near the same number as Bristol Rovers did.

EXTENDED FENCE BEHIND LONDON ROAD GOAL

It is with a genuine feeling of sadness that I announce the completion of the fence behind the London Road goal which has been extended from the six yard area to the edge of the eighteen yard box either side of the goal. This is just another victory for the few morons in our crowd who have thrown coins at police and players alike and to whom all the good supporters must succumb.

I just hope and in fact appeal to all our good supporters, both old and young alike, to make life difficult for those enemies of both fans and club who continue with this cowardly practice of coin throwing.

I have joyfully noticed a distinct anti reaction by our fans in the London Road stand to the morons I have mentioned and may the time come when the culprits are literally sat on by the 99.5% of club loving supporters who wish to see the good name of Oxford United Football Club upheld.

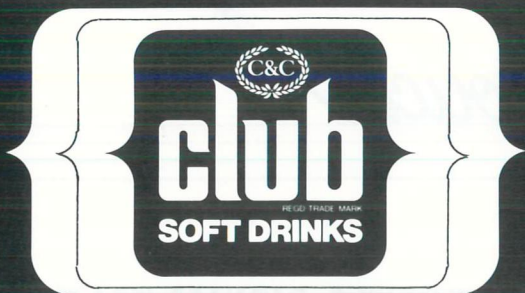
SEASON TICKET PRICES FOR 1984/85 SEASON

I hope to be able to announce the prices of season tickets for next season within the next seven to ten days.

Once the prices have been established a letter will go out from the Chairman to all our existing season ticket holders.

Because of the likely demand, should we be promoted to the Second Division of the Canon League, that last date for which cheap rate season tickets can be purchased will definitely be May 31st 1984.

The details of next season's prices will be announced in our next home programme (May 2nd) but an announcement will undoubtedly have been made to the local press and radio before this to coincide with the letter going out to season ticket holders.



*Help to
break the ice*

NEWPORT AWAY MATCH

For those supporters who are travelling to Newport on Saturday 28th April and who fear from past experience that the space allocated to us will not be sufficient for all those likely to attend I have been assured by the Secretary of Newport County that we need have no worries for he has allocated the whole of the Cromwell Road End of the ground to Oxford United supporters. Now that we are taking a large following to our away matches (which is magic) may I appeal to all our fans to be on their best behaviour thereby once again upholding the good name of our club.

APOLOGIES TO ALL OUR CHALGROVE SUPPORTERS

I trust that our supporters from Chalgrove were not offended by the fact that we spelt the name of their home village incorrectly in our last programme. Not only did we spell Chalgrove wrong in the heading but we proceeded to follow that up with the same mistake in the text. We pride ourselves on producing a reasonably accurate programme, with few bad mistakes, but in this instance we can only hold our hands up and say "clang clang".

WELCOME TO TODAY'S MATCH SPONSORS

We welcome to sponsors of today's match to the Manor our good friends, the Directors, Management and Staff of Northern Sports.

It will be remembered that Greyhound Racing and Speedway at the Cowley Stadium was in grave danger of folding up prior to Northern Sports taking over. Since then improvements have been made to several aspects of the Greyhound Racing and a Speedway side of talent has been purchased to coincide with re-admittance to the top League in the country being achieved.

All this must be to the benefit of the City of Oxford and we congratulate them on their forward thinking.

There is of course room for all three of our sports in Oxford and we hope that Northern Sports will attract the crowds to Cowley in close liaison with Oxford United Football Club.

We trust they find their enterprise today will help to bear fruit in the future.

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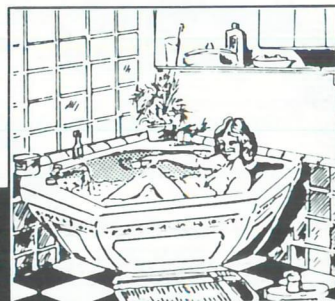
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On Parade ... COLIN TODD

by John Ley (Oxford Mail)

MANY soccer pundits believe that Colin Todd is one of the finest players to wear the white shirt of England in the last twenty years.

United's supporters should feel privileged to have seen Colin, now 35, but still playing with the style and calmness that are the hallmarks of this great professional.

The one sad aspect about his stay at Oxford is the fact that very soon he will almost certainly be leaving.

Once United are definitely promoted Colin looks set to fly out to Canada to join former Derby team-mate Alan Hinton at Vancouver Whitecaps in the North American soccer league.

But who can begrudge a man of the chance to experience a new dimension to his soccer career after giving so much to the game?

There is no doubt that this polite, likeable footballer has played a vital role in the short spell at Oxford, and that his presence will be felt after he has left, by those players who have played alongside him and learnt so much.

"It was a very difficult decision to make," he says. "But playing in the States has always been a major ambition and this is probably my last chance to achieve it.

"When I leave Oxford I'll leave a lot of new friends but I know that I will be leaving a very good side with some very good players.

"The most important thing about Oxford United is that youth is on the club's side. There are a lot of highly talented players here, like Brocky and George. They have all grown up and

matured together and personally I think that playing in the Second Division will suit the team more than the Third."

Toddy has spent most of his career in the First Division, and in fact before he came to the Manor had played only one season out of the top flight, for Birmingham in Division 2.

He recalls his most memorable days as those at Derby County under Brian Clough.

"We won the First Division championship under Cloughie, and reached the semi-final of the European Cup. Those were good days, and after he left Dave Mackay took over and we won the League again."

During his career, Colin has played for six League clubs, and his moves have involved transfer fees of more than £850,000. Not surprisingly, his talents were used to the benefit of England, although many people feel that he should have won more than the 27 caps he collected.

He made his full international debut in 1972 against Northern Ireland at Wembley, a match England lost 1-0. Five years later he played in the England team which won 2-1 in Belfast. It was to be his last appearance for his country.

"That game will always stick out in my memory. We won and played well, although for that game all the Liverpool players were unavailable for some reason. The manager, Don Revie, was pleased with my performance, but a couple of days later he said 'I'm sorry, I've got to leave you out. Emlyn Hughes took my place after that.'"

Despite that set-back Colin continued to produce the goods in the League, although

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he could have gone to America sometime before this summer.

"I've had a few options to go there in the past. The last time was about three years ago when Alan Hinton wanted to take me to Seattle. But I got injured and missed the chance."

Colin has had offers in the past from Jacksonville and Tampa Bay Rowdies but now he's taking the chance for a 'new lease of life'.

Eventually his family will fly out to join

him in Canada. His wife Jennifer, and sons Steven, 13 and nine-year-old Andrew will join Dad once he's settled in.

After that who knows? Colin will return in the autumn, although League rules do not permit him to come back to Oxford.

"I'd like to continue playing for as long as I can, and afterwards if it's possible to find a post in soccer then I will."

That sentiment should be applauded by football lovers everywhere



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- 4 KEVIN BROCK
- 5 COLIN TODD
- 6 MALCOLM SHOTTON
- 7 MARK JONES
- 8 STEVE BIGGINS
- 9 MICK VINTER
- 10 TREVOR HEBBERD
- 11 PETER RHOADES-BROWN
- 12 JOHN ALDRIDGE

BOLTON WANDERERS

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- 2 BRIAN BORROWS
- 3 RAY DEAKIN
- 4 WARREN JOYCE
- 5 GERRY McELHINNEY
- 6 PETER VALENTINE
- 7 STEVE THOMPSON
- 8 JEFF CHANDLER
- 9 WAYNE FOSTER
- 10 TONY CALDWELL
- 11 GRAHAM BELL
- 12 SIMON RUDGE

REFEREE: A. Gunn (Burgess Hill)

LINESMEN: W. K. Burge (Tonypany) — Red Flag
R. J. Pardoe (Windsor) — Yellow Flag

TODAY'S REFEREE

Allan Gunn began refereeing in local Sussex Leagues and the Sussex County League and progressed via the Football Combination to the Football League list.

A married man, with two daughters, he is Purchasing Manager for a Precision Measurements Manufacturing Company, and his interests include playing squash and swimming.



HALF-TIME SCORES

- A BLACKBURN ROVERS v. NEWCASTLE UNITED
- B CARLISLE UNITED v. MIDDLESBROUGH
- C OLDHAM ATHLETIC v. MANCHESTER CITY
- D BRENTFORD v. EXETER CITY
- E PLYMOUTH ARGYLE v. NEWPORT COUNTY
- F HARTLEPOOL UNITED v. BLACKPOOL
- G WREXHAM v. SWINDON TOWN

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Football Combination

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versus

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Kick-off 7.30 pm

Sat. April 28th 1984
Football Combination

UNITED

versus

LUTON TOWN

Kick-off 3.00 pm



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